

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to personal information, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, by an electronic device, a request for access to the personal information, the request originating from an entity external to the electronic device;  
displaying information requested in the request;  
determining, on a case-by-case basis access rights for a requestor; and  
providing the external entity with cryptographically protected access information allowing the entity access to the personal information existing within a personal database also existing external to the electronic device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the external entity with the cryptographically protected access information comprises the step of providing the external entity with a token, the token comprising information taken from the group consisting of:

- an identification label for an element within the database,
- a type of action to be performed on the database,
- an identity of a requesting party,
- a validity period, and
- a digital signature or message authentication code that certifies the token's authenticity and integrity.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the database is controlled by a user of the electronic device.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the database is controlled by an owner of the personal information.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the database and the electronic device is controlled by an owner of the personal information.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the external entity with cryptographically protected access information allowing the entity access to the personal information comprises the step of providing the external entity with a token allowing the entity to read the personal information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing the external entity with cryptographically protected access information allowing the entity access to the personal information comprises the step of providing the external entity with a token allowing the entity to write personal information into the database.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to personal information, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, on an electronic device, a request for the personal information, the request originating from an entity external to the electronic device;

displaying information requested in the request;

determining, on a case-by-case basis access rights for a requestor;

providing a personal database, external to the electronic device, with cryptographically protected access information instructing the database to forward the personal information to the external entity.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of providing the personal database with the cryptographically protected access information comprises the step of providing the database with a token, the token comprising information taken from the group consisting of:

- an identification label for an element within the database,
- a type of action to be performed on the database,
- an identity of a requesting party,
- a validity period, and
- a digital signature or message authentication code that certifies the token's authenticity and integrity.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the database is controlled by a user of the electronic device.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the database is controlled by an owner of the personal information.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the database and the electronic device is controlled by an owner of the personal information.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of providing the database with cryptographically protected access information comprises the step of providing the database with a token allowing the external entity to read the personal information.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of providing the database with cryptographically protected access information allowing the entity access to the personal information comprises the step of providing the database with a token allowing the entity to write personal information into the database.

15. (Currently Amended) An electronic device comprising:

an authorization manager receiving and displaying a request for the personal information, the request originating from an entity external to the electronic device and verifying the requestor of the personal information as legitimate; and

a token generator, providing either an external database or the external entity with cryptographically protected access information determined on a case-by-case basis, and instructing the database to forward the personal information to the external entity.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the cryptographically protected access information comprises a token comprising information taken from the group consisting of:

- an identification label for an element within the database,
- a type of action to be performed on the database,
- an identity of a requesting party,
- a validity period, and
- a digital signature or message authentication code that certifies the token's authenticity and integrity.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the database is controlled by a user of the electronic device.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the database is controlled by an owner of the personal information.